

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 22, 2005. Claims 1 to 6 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 5, 12, 20 to 26, 30 and 33 to 36 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,815,764 (Tomory). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a data processing apparatus which can transmit a printing job to an image recording apparatus having plural holding units each capable of holding plural sheets or an image recording apparatus capable of connecting with an option apparatus having plural holding units. The data processing apparatus includes: holding unit name registration means for accepting, in order to register plural discrimination names including a user name and names of plural groups to which a user corresponding to the user name belongs for each of the plural holding units of the image recording apparatus, designation of the user name and the names of the plural groups to which the user corresponding to the user name belongs, and for transmitting the designation content to the image recording apparatus; holding unit name capture means for capturing the plural discrimination names registered to each of the holding units of the image recording apparatus, from the image recording apparatus. Job creation means accept, when creating the printing job, designation that the plural discrimination names captured by the holding unit name capture means are set as sheet discharge addresses of the printing job, and actually create the printing job including the accepted sheet discharge address designation by the plural discrimination names. The

job creation means enables to set, selectively, the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the user name and the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the group name with respect to each job, and the data processing apparatus further comprises controller adapted to cause the image recording apparatus to execute, in a case where, from a first-type print job that the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the group name is not set and a second-type print job that the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the group name is at least set, the second-type print job is transmitted to the image recording apparatus, the print process of the same page in the second-type print job plural times.

In contrast, *Tomory* relates to document routing, and provides a system in which, if the print engine is occupied performing a print job, a controller provides an indication to that effect to a user who is trying to set up a second print job. In such an instance, the *Tomory* system gives the user the ability to have the second job developed while the first is being printed, and then second job can either be printed after completion of the first, or can be sent to the user's mailbox, or sent to a remote destination in the network, and in particular can be output to a bin specified by the user.

Even if *Tomory* thus discloses sheets being discharged into a bin designated by a user, however, that is nothing more than the related background art of the present application pointed out in Applicant's specification. As might be expected, the *Tomory* system cannot cope with the problems pointed out in the related background art of the present application, and, in fact, does not provide any consideration or analysis of those problems, nor even hint at a solution, much less the specific solution provided by Applicant's respective independent claims.

In particular, nothing has been found, or pointed out, in *Tomory* that would teach or suggest job a controller that, among other features, is adapted to cause said image recording apparatus to execute, in a case where, from a first-type print job that the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the group name is not set and a second-type print job that the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the group name is at least set, said second-type print job is transmitted to the said image recording apparatus, the print process of the same page in said second-type print job plural times, as recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 5 is directed to a data processing apparatus which can transmit a printing job to an image recording apparatus having plural holding units or an image recording apparatus capable of connecting with an option apparatus having plural holding units. The data processing apparatus includes a holding unit name capture means for capturing from said image recording apparatus plural discrimination names registered to each of the holding units of said image recording apparatus, the plural discrimination names including a user name and names of plural groups to which a user corresponding to the user name belongs, and job creation means for accepting, when creating the printing job, designation that the plural discrimination names captured by said holding unit name capture means are set as sheet discharge addresses of the printing job, and actually creating the printing job including the accepted sheet discharge address designation by the plural discrimination names. The job creation means enables to set, selectively, the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the user name and the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the group name with respect to each job. The data processing apparatus further comprises a controller adapted to cause said

image recording apparatus to execute, in a case where, from a first-type print job that the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the group name is not set and a second-type print job that the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the group name is at least set, said second-type print job is transmitted to said image recording apparatus, the print process of the same page in said second-type print job plural times.

Thus, Claim 5 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Tomory* for at least the same reasons as is Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 12 is directed to an image recording apparatus which can sort plural printing jobs received from plural superior apparatuses through a predetermined communication medium and discharge the sorted printing jobs to plural holding units. The image recording apparatus comprises a registration means for registering in a memory plural discrimination names to each of the holding units, the plural discrimination names including a user name and names of plural groups to which a user corresponding to the user name belongs and being transmitted from each of said superior apparatuses or directly designated from an operation unit; discrimination name notification means for notifying said superior apparatus of the plural discrimination names registered by said registration means, in accordance with a request from said superior apparatus; and sheet discharge control means for discharging the printing job to which the discrimination name has been designated to the holding unit to which the discrimination name same as the discrimination name designated as a sheet discharge address to the printing job has been designated. The image recording apparatus enables to accept the printing job in which the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the user name and the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the group name are selectively set with respect to each job. The image recording apparatus further comprises a controller adapted to cause said

image recording apparatus to execute, in a case where, from a first-type print job that the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the group name is not set and a second-type print job that the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the group name is at least set, said second-type print job is accepted by said image recording apparatus, the print process of the same page in said second-type print job plural times.

Applicant submits that nothing has been found, or pointed out, in *Tomory* that would teach or suggest a controller that, among other features, is adapted to cause an image recording apparatus to execute, in a case where, from a first-type print job that the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the group name is not set and a second-type print job that the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the group name is at least set, said second-type print job is accepted by said image recording apparatus, the print process of the same page in said second-type print job plural times, as recited in Claim 12. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 12 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Independent Claims 20 to 25 are each either a method or a storage medium claim corresponding to one or another of apparatus Claims 1, 5 and 12, and these six claims are therefore each believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above.

Independent Claim 26 is directed to an image recording apparatus which can connect with a sheet processing apparatus having plural storage units capable of storing sheets. The image recording apparatus comprises reception means for receiving data including image data from a remote data processing apparatus; image recording means for recording an image based on the received image data, on a sheet; and control means for performing control, according as first data instructing to distribute the sheets to the storage unit belonging to which of plural groups of the grouped storage units is included in the data

received from said remote data processing apparatus, to distribute the sheets on which the image data from said remote data processing apparatus has been recorded to the storage unit belonging to the group according to the first data. The control means enables said image recording apparatus to accept the printing job in which the first data is selectively set with respect to each job, and in a case where, from a first-type print job that the first data is not set and a second-type print job that the first data is set, said second-type print job is accepted by said image recording apparatus, it enables said image recording apparatus to execute the print process of the same page in said second-type print job plural times.

Applicant submits that nothing has been found, or pointed out, in *Tomory* that would teach or suggest a control means that, among other features, enables, in a case where, from a first-type print job that the first data is not set and a second-type print job that the first data is set, said second-type print job is accepted by said image recording apparatus, it enables said image recording apparatus to execute the print process of the same page in said second-type print job plural times as recited in Claim 26. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 26 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 30 is directed to a data processing apparatus which can transmit data including image data to be recorded, to an image recording apparatus capable of connecting with a sheet processing apparatus having plural storage units capable of storing sheets. The data processing apparatus comprises generation means for generating first data based on an operator's instruction for instructing to distribute the sheets to the storage units belonging to which of plural groups of the grouped storage units; transmission means for correlating the first data with the image data and transmitting the correlated data to said image recording apparatus; and setting means for enabling to set

whether or not to set the first data with respect to each job. The data processing apparatus further comprises a controller adapted to, in a case where, from a first-type print job that the first data is not set and as second-type print job that the first data is set, said second-type print job is transmitted to said image recording apparatus, to enable said image recording apparatus to execute, the print process of the same page in said second-type print job plural times.

Applicant submits that nothing has been found, or pointed out, in *Tomory* that would teach or suggest a controller that, among other features, is adapted to, in a case where, from a first-type print job that the first data is not set and as second-type print job that the first data is set, said second-type print job is transmitted to said image recording apparatus, to enable said image recording apparatus to execute, the print process of the same page in said second-type print job plural times, as recited in Claim 30. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 30 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Independent Claims 33 to 36 are each either a method or a storage medium claim corresponding to one or the other of apparatus Claims 26 and 30, and these four claims are therefore each believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

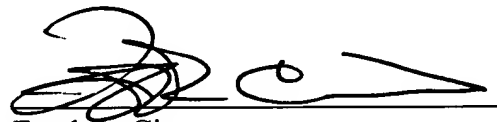
The other claims each depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention, individual reconsideration of the allowability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', written over a horizontal line.

Frank L. Cire
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 42,419

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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